



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466



335488

May 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: Floyd Nichols, Chief -  
Response Section

FROM: Mike Zimmerman, OSC *Mike Zimmerman*

SUBJECT: Sample Scoping Visit - April 29, 1992  
Richardson Flats, Park City, Utah

In accordance with the "Make Sites Safe Initiative", ERB and SF Remedial initiated the assessment process to determine if Richardson Flats, a proposed NPL Site is safe. To further the process it was deemed prudent to conduct a scoping visit to the site for purposes of familiarizing EPA, State of Utah, and the PRP with the pending site assesement. On April 29, 1992, the following representatives toured the site:

EPA

Mike Zimmerman, OSC  
Steve Hawthorn, OSC  
Mike McCeney, RPM  
Rick Baird, Attorney-ORC

TAT

Scott Keen, TAT Team Leader  
Gayle Crockett, TAT Member

State of Utah

Harold Sanbeck, RPM

United Park City Mines

Edwin L. Osika, Ex.VP  
Kerry Gee, Geologist  
Rosemary J. Beless, Attorney  
(Fabian & Clendenin)  
Two Other UPCM Consultants (names unknown)

Weather - About 50 Degrees F w/partly cloudy conditions and winds in the 10 mph range (estimates).

Site Observations/Actions

The inspection party convened at 0800 hrs. beneath the underpass of US 40 and Utah Highway 248 with the introduction of individual and discussions pertaining to the purpose of visit. Proceeding from the meeting point, the party traveled in a caravan of three vehicles around the perimeter of the property, beginning with the northern boundry of the site. The entire site is fenced with fencing constructed to define roadway boundaries, or to restrict access in reaches of the site not adjacent to a

county of state highway. Silver Creek and the abandoned railroad have been fenced and the approach to the old railroad tracks has been barricaded to restrict access. Most of the fencing is similiar to highway right-of-way fencing; one strand of barb wire atop 42" of hog wire fencing with driven metal posts. One access gate (lock and key) is available on the southern boundary of the site. Certain reaches on the northern perimeter have temporary fencing constructed because of differences of legal opinion over right-of-way between the PRP and the entity responsible for construction of US 40. This fencing looks sufficient to keep out the unwanted guest. The PRP has posted "Keep Out" signs at many points around the perimeter the site. It appears that the PRP has diligently tried to restrict access to the site.

The party moved (on foot) to the wetlands area and the tailings dam. The monitoring wells were observed along with the tailings dam. It was learned that the dam was engineered by Dames and Moore. One of the monitoring wells can no longer be located. No weeps or springs in the tailings dam area were observed. The marsh grasses had yet to spring to life and were awaiting warmer weather.

Next the party walked the alignment of the diversion ditch and observed an area where the ditch appeared to pond water. It was obvious that wildlife is taking to the vegetation rich oasis. Next an area that has been utilized for refuse disgard of inert materials (large rocks, used machinery) was observed. This area apparently was identified as a landfill on previous aerials as was another localized area that was observed with discarded inert material. Eliminating these from the sampling plan should simplify the task of site sampling. Additionally, it was obvious that the hydraulic flow within the channel is intermittent and greatly dependent upon storm event and snow melt run-off. Additionally, the extent of soil covering the tailings could only be partially observed. The PRP is attempting to cover the tailings with fill and plant grasses adapted to the climate for fugutive dust suppression. It appeared that wheat grass and/or alfalfa/clover was being systemically planted on site. The PRP stated that 85% of the site had been covered/planted and they continue to work on vegetation as resources are available.

The site of the municipal landfill within Richardson Flats was toured next while noting that the landfill operated for approximately 12 years (1974-1986) by Park City under a lease arrangement with UPCM. Apparently the facility was permitted by the State of Utah and was designated for municipal purposes. The route of the new highway split the landfill in half, north-to-south. While some previous reports/aerials indicate stained soils in photos, it was not apparent that leaching of the landfill material was occurring. Monitoring wells in this general area were discussed with the TAT. More information will

need to be developed as to the impact of the landfill on Silver Creek.

The flood plain and Silver Creek were viewed as the last points-of-interest. The PRP drew attention to their belief that contamination is migrating down Silver Creek from Prospector Square and being depositing in the flood plain. On the surface, the soils looked very typical (western soils) with salt deposits discoloring naturally occurring soil strata. However, sampling of soil, surface waters, groundwater, and sediments would give a more detailed description of possible contaminant migration from the site in this general area. Flow of Silver Creek may be intermittent during summer low-flow months. The PRP stated that the stream did not "officially" support a cold water fishery, however, as the party was crossing an old bridge to go off-site, a nice pan-sized trout (about 1' long) was observed swimming in Silver Creek.

The tour concluded at approximately 1045 hrs. with the OSC restating the purpose of the trip and the future sampling effort ("Make Sites Safe Initiative"). A course of action was discussed with the PRP in terms of future sampling efforts. EPA would send aerial photos and the sampling plans to the PRP to keep them informed of pending efforts. The RPM's (EPA/UDEQ) discussed with the PRP future remedial work and the need to coordinate. Once the sampling plan is prepared and is approvable, EPA would approach the PRP for site access. A tentative late May - early June sampling date was suggested. The PRP demonstrated a cooperative nature as did all state/federal government representatives.

cc: Rich Baird, ORC  
Mike McCeney, RPM  
Harold Sanbeck, UDEQ RPM  
TAT